

A Guide to Selecting an Eickhof Columbarium

Choosing a company to build a columbarium is a major responsibility. For most people, this is a new experience and one that involves design considerations, along with engineering and construction issues.

Although most of us have an idea of what looks good to us, it is also very important to recognize the significance of proper construction, particularly since a columbarium lasts for many years.

We have prepared this *Guide* because asking the right questions can make a difference.

Q. “Who will be working with us at Eickhof?”

A. You will have an opportunity to get acquainted with several members of the team at Eickhof Columbaria and it won't take long before you will be using their first names! Everyone does.

However, it will be Paul Eickhof who will serve as your mentor and guide. Paul is patient, always willing to answer questions and to provide whatever information you need. You can count on him to be available throughout the entire process.

Q. “Where can we see examples of your work?”

A. We encourage you to visit one or more of our installations so you can see an actual Eickhof columbarium project. Since we have built more than 725 columbaria in the last 25 years, our work is readily available in most parts of the country. Your visits will give you a first hand feel about working with Eickhof, as well as the quality of our products. We are always glad to assist in helping you make arrangements for a visit.

Let us know where you are located and we will forward a list of our installations in your general geographic area.

Q. “Can you tell us something about the construction of an Eickhof columbarium?”

A. Our actual niches are made from 3/8” thick, cement fiber building board that contains naturally occurring materials (85% to 95% of the board is made from limestone and cement with the rest fibrous materials). It is non-combustible, impact resistant, moisture resistant, rot-proof and unaffected by mold, salt air, vermin and insects. A 3/8” thick piece of cement fiber building board, 12” by 12” in size, will, when placed on edge, support more than 12,000 pounds. No other product can make this claim.

In addition, Eickhof niche walls and shelves are fabricated using stainless steel fasteners that cannot rust, corrode or deteriorate. All stone components utilized to finish the columbarium, which include the capstones, end caps, trim stone, and niche fronts, are

fastened with 100 percent non-corrosive mechanical fasteners. We do not rely on wire, mortar, or adhesives to hold stone components in place.

It is also important to point out, for example, that all Eickhof pre-assembled columbaria benefit from a solid inner concrete sub-structure, which gives these units unusual strength and durability, and makes it possible to transport them easily and safely by land or water.

All of this attention to detail, when assembling a columbarium, insures that an Eickhof columbarium will stand the test of time.

Q. “What about warranties?”

A. All Eickhof columbarium installations installed by Eickhof personnel come with a five-year written warranty. Over the years, there have been only a few minor, easily remedied issues. All have occurred within the first couple of years after installation.

Some companies offer 20-year and even 40-year warranties. While longer warranties may sound good, there is no guarantee that a company will be in business in twenty or more years.

Far more important than the length of a columbarium’s warranty are durability factors: the overall engineering, the type of materials which are used, the quality of the construction and the design of the opening and closing mechanism.

Here is the most important question: “Will this columbarium stand the test of time?” It will, if it’s built by Eickhof.

Q. “How easy is it to open and close an Eickhof niche?”

A. Opening and closing niches with our patented locking system is totally user-friendly. It is a main reason why so many churches, cemeteries and other organizations choose an Eickhof columbarium. The first time someone uses the patented system’s simple opening and closing tool, they say, “I can’t believe it’s so easy. Anyone can do it.” The completely concealed hardware that fastens the niche fronts provides esthetic beauty as well as extra security.

Q. “Do you ever work with architects?”

A. Yes, we do work with architects—including landscape architects—on many of our projects. We consider it a compliment since they often refer clients to us. If you like, we’re glad to provide you with references.

If you would like additional information or have further questions, we invite you to contact us at 800-253-0457 or paul@eickhofcolumbaria.com.